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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/514,465	02/28/2000	Margaret Motamed	EFIM0069CIP	8791
31408	7590	05/21/2004	EXAMINER	
JAMES TROSINO 268 Bush Street #3434 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104			LAMB, TWYLER MARIE	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2622		
DATE MAILED: 05/21/2004				

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/514,465	MOTAMED ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Twyler M. Lamb	2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant (s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: Response filed on 3/8/04.
2. This application has been reconsidered. Claim 1 is pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (US 6,441,920) in view of Tan et al. (Tan) (US 5,978,560).

With regard to claim 1, Smith discloses a raster image processing (RIP) (col 5, lines 21-49), software application (RIPs 34) adapted for use on a networked computer (front ends 40 connected to computer network 35) (col 5, line 66 – col 6, line 9), coupled to a plurality of networked printers (out put devices 46) (col 6, lines 34-39).

Smith differs from claim 1 in that he does not clearly teach the software application adapted to: receive a print job; parse the print job into one or more print pieces; load balance the print pieces among the printers based on color use and print speed; and provide a list of the printers that received the print pieces.

Tan discloses a multiple print engine system that includes said filter parsing said job into one or more print pieces; and forwarding said print pieces to said one or more

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designated printers; load balance the print pieces among the printers based on color use and print speed; and provide a list of the printers that received the print pieces (col 3, lines 58-64; ref Figure 4, col 6, lines 39-60).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Smith to include the software application adapted to: receive a print job; parse the print job into one or more print pieces; load balance the print pieces among the printers based on color use and print speed; and provide a list of the printers that received the print pieces as taught by Tan. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Smith by the teaching of Tan to balance the load numerous logical printers as taught by Tan in col 11, lines 19-48.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 is have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Twyler Lamb whose telephone number is 703 - 308-8823. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles can be reached on 703-308-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

(for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be
discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or
"DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two

2121 Crystal Drive

Arlington, VA.

Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Twyler Lamb



May 17, 2004